

country during the troubled times through which we are called upon to pass.

We have endeavoured to enumerate, not as restricting in any way the general power, but for the purpose of giving, so far as it is possible, the people of Canada an idea of the subjects with which we think it may be necessary to deal, a certain number of classes of subjects to which that power is to extend. With regard to some of those subjects, we have already found it necessary to take action, as the House has been made aware by the statement of the right hon. the Prime Minister.

The resolution also provides for an amendment to the Immigration Act, with a view of adding to the prohibited classes under that Act the class of persons resident in Canada who leave this country for the purpose of giving aid to the enemy, and who may afterwards seek to return. That provision is that such persons shall not be entitled to return to Canada, without, at all events, special permission being granted.

There is also a provision looking to an extension of the number of the members of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. There are incidental provisions also with regard to the carrying out of the orders and regulations which the House is asked to authorize the Governor in Council to pass. We are not unaware that in proposing a measure of this kind we are asking the representatives of the people of Canada for an expression of very wide confidence in us. I think it might, perhaps, be more correct to say that we are asking the people of Canada to entrust us with a very wide power. The justification for their doing so is not to be found in any confidence they may entertain in ourselves individually; nor do we, in asking the House for this wide power, rely upon any confidence that they may entertain in us personally. I am satisfied that no question of personal qualifications can arise in this connection; the justification for our demand is to be found in the necessities of our common country. We are quite aware that in asking for this wide measure of power we are asking you to lay upon our shoulders a very heavy burden of responsibility, and if we were looking to our personal advantage or personal comfort in the matter, we might perhaps be tempted to shirk that responsibility. But, under the conditions of to-day, it is for every man to do that which lies within his power, on behalf of our country, whose fate, in common with the fate of the entire Empire, is hanging in the balance. Fortune has willed it that we should be in

the position where the assumption of this heavy burden becomes the manifest duty that we are called upon to perform. In submitting this measure we express our readiness to take upon our shoulders that heavy burden; and we venture to believe that in presenting it to a House that is itself, as are the people whom it represents, divided on no party lines to-day, we may count on it that they will see that as it is our duty to take this burden it is their duty to lay it upon our shoulders.

After the most eloquent and patriotic address of the right hon leader of the Opposition, I feel that I may say that we can with perfect confidence submit this measure to the consideration and for the action of this House. I may add that of course we shall be glad of any suggestions which may be given tending to improve it in form or in substance. We are not wedded to the precise terms of any particular provision of this measure, and all we seek in laying it before the House is to have the sanction of this House to our doing the best that is in us under these trying circumstances for our common country.

The whole principle of the measure to be based on the resolution is that the necessities of the conditions in which we find ourselves are such that it is necessary for the people of Canada to place their confidence in us for the time being, and when we come forward and ask them to do so, we assure them that we realize how heavy is the burden of responsibility that it carries with it; and further give them the assurance that, while the powers to be conferred on us are large, in their exercise we shall endeavour to bear in mind the desirability of departing as little as it may be possible, in view of the interests and the necessities of the country to-day, from the rule of the ordinary laws under which our country is governed under normal conditions.

Hon. WILLIAM PUGSLEY: Animated as we all are by a desire to facilitate in every way the despatch of measures which the Government deem necessary on this occasion, I trust that my hon. friend will not think I am unduly delaying the proceedings if I venture to make some remarks with regard to a portion of the resolution now under consideration. The Minister of Justice very properly invited criticism or suggestions in respect to the matter, and I am sure he will pardon me if I call attention